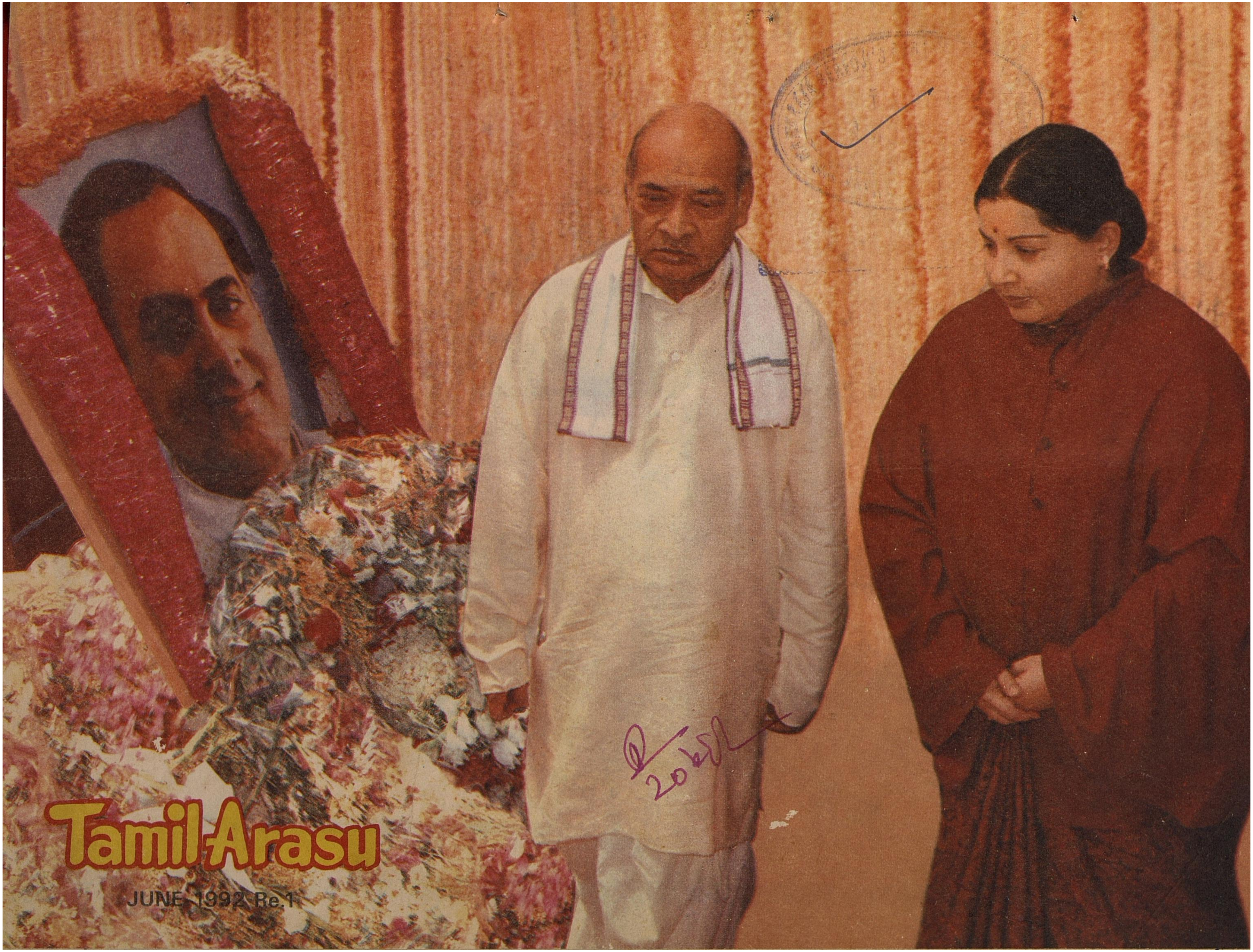
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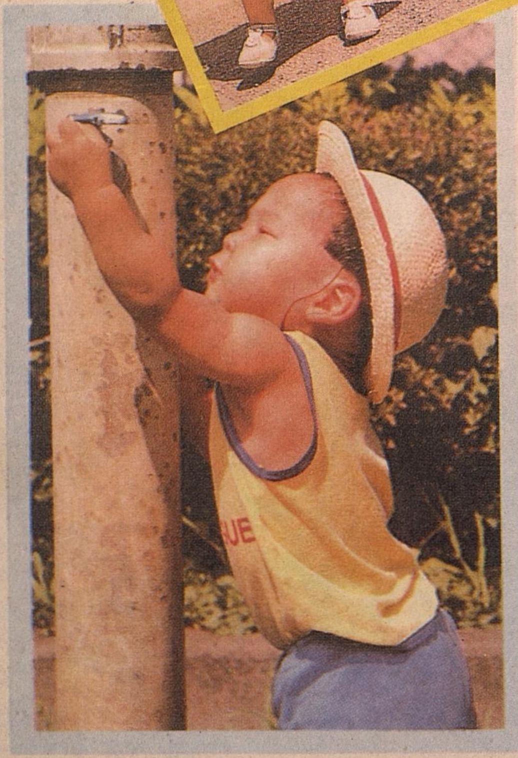

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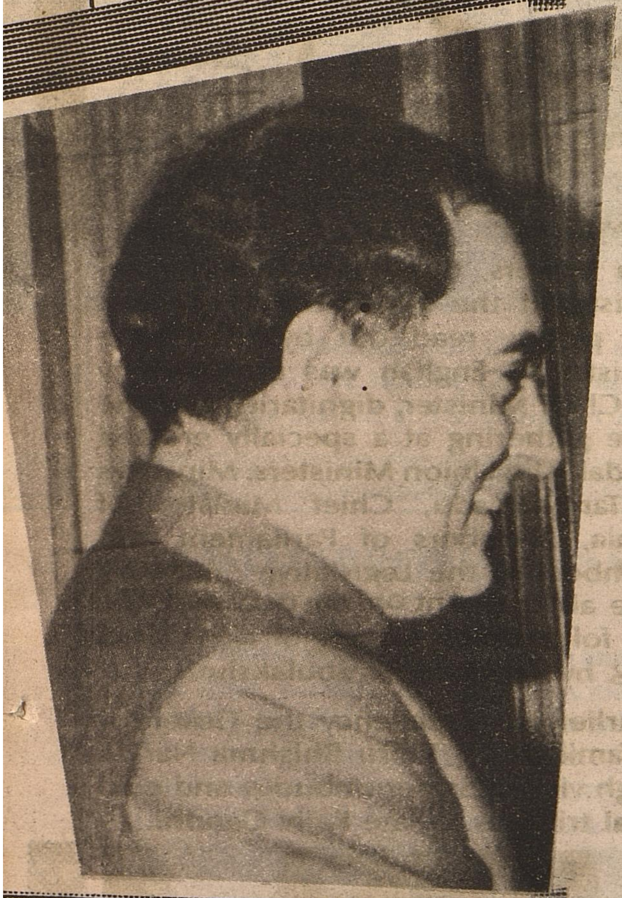
A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2023
Vaikasi - Aani

JUNE - 1992



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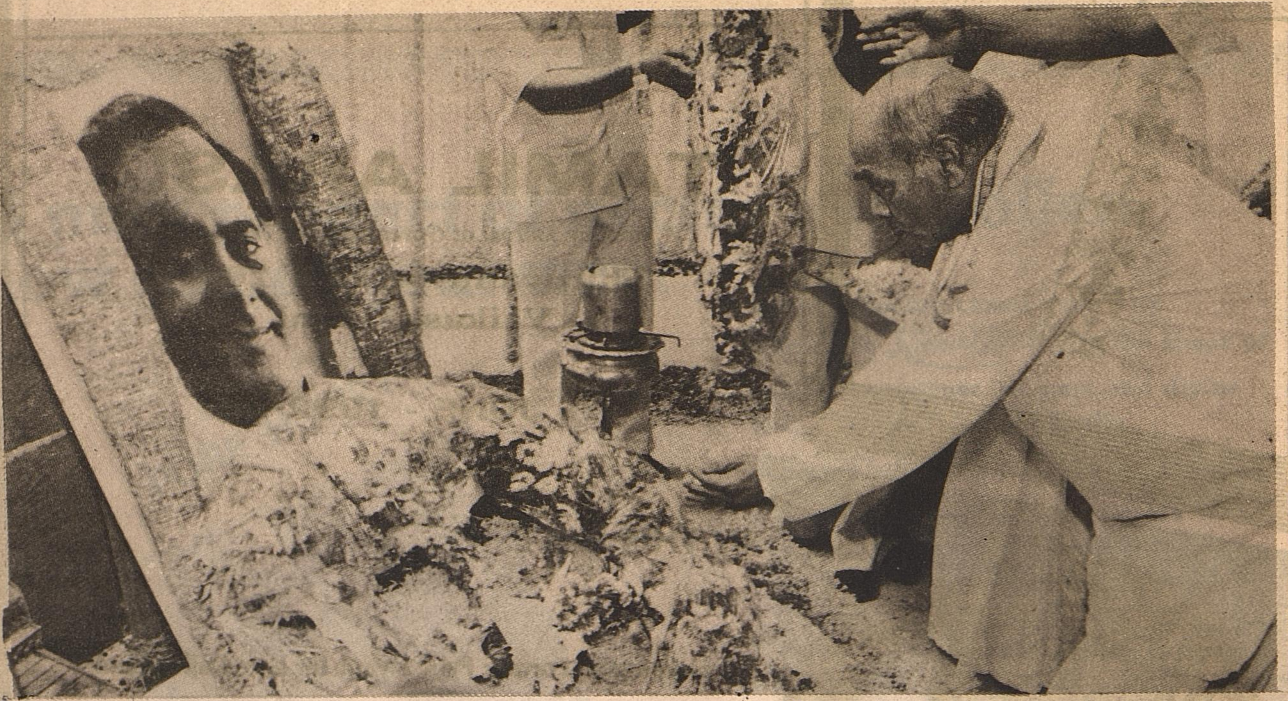
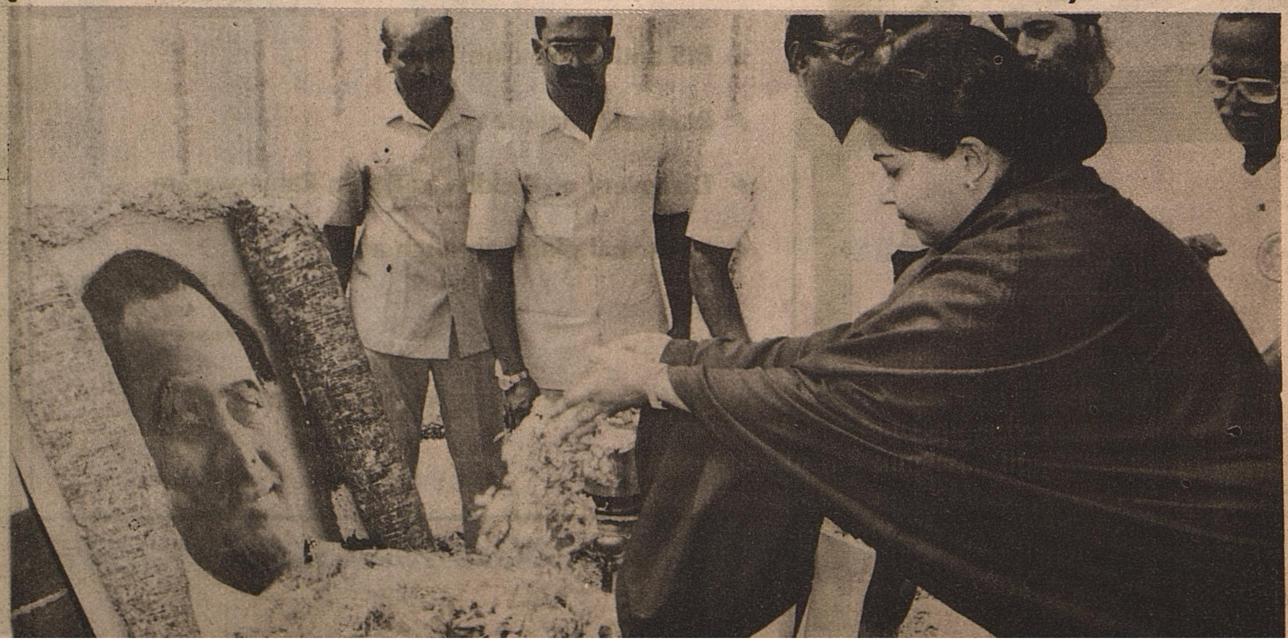


HOMAGE TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER LATE RAJIV GANDHI

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V.Narasimha Rao and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi on his first death anniversary on 21st May 1992, at the place of his assassination in Sriperumbudur.

The day was also observed as anti-terrorism day. After paying homage with flowers, the Prime Minister administered the anti-terrorism pledge. The pledge read out by the Prime Minister in English was repeated by the Chief Minister, dignitaries and the huge gathering at a specially erected pandal. The Union Ministers, Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister of Kerala, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly were also present on the occasion. This was followed by singing of devotional song by Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi.

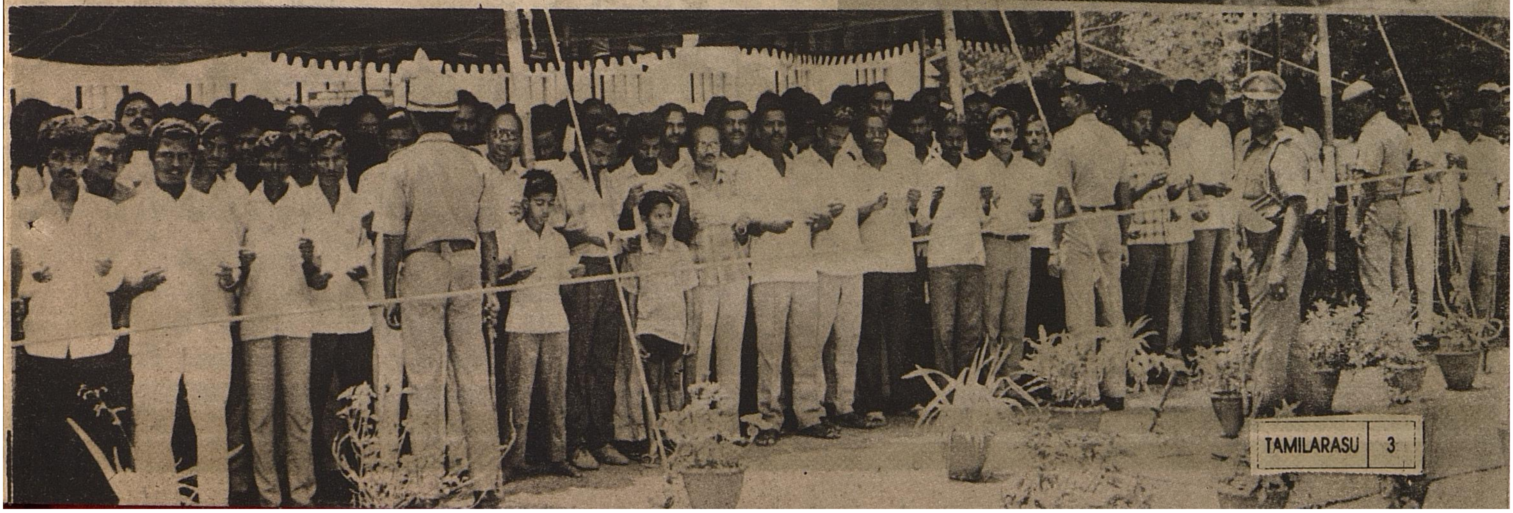
Earlier His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh visited Sriperumbudur and paid floral tributes to late Rajiv Gandhi.



In connection with the death anniversary of the former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid homage to his portrait at Secretariat on 21st May 1992.

ANTI-TERRORISM PLEDGE

In connection with the first death anniversary of Late Rajiv Gandhi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha administered the anti-terrorism pledge to the Government employees at the Secretariat on 21st May 1992. The Officers and the employees took a pledge to fight all forms of terrorism and violence.



ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AT UDHAGAMANDALAM

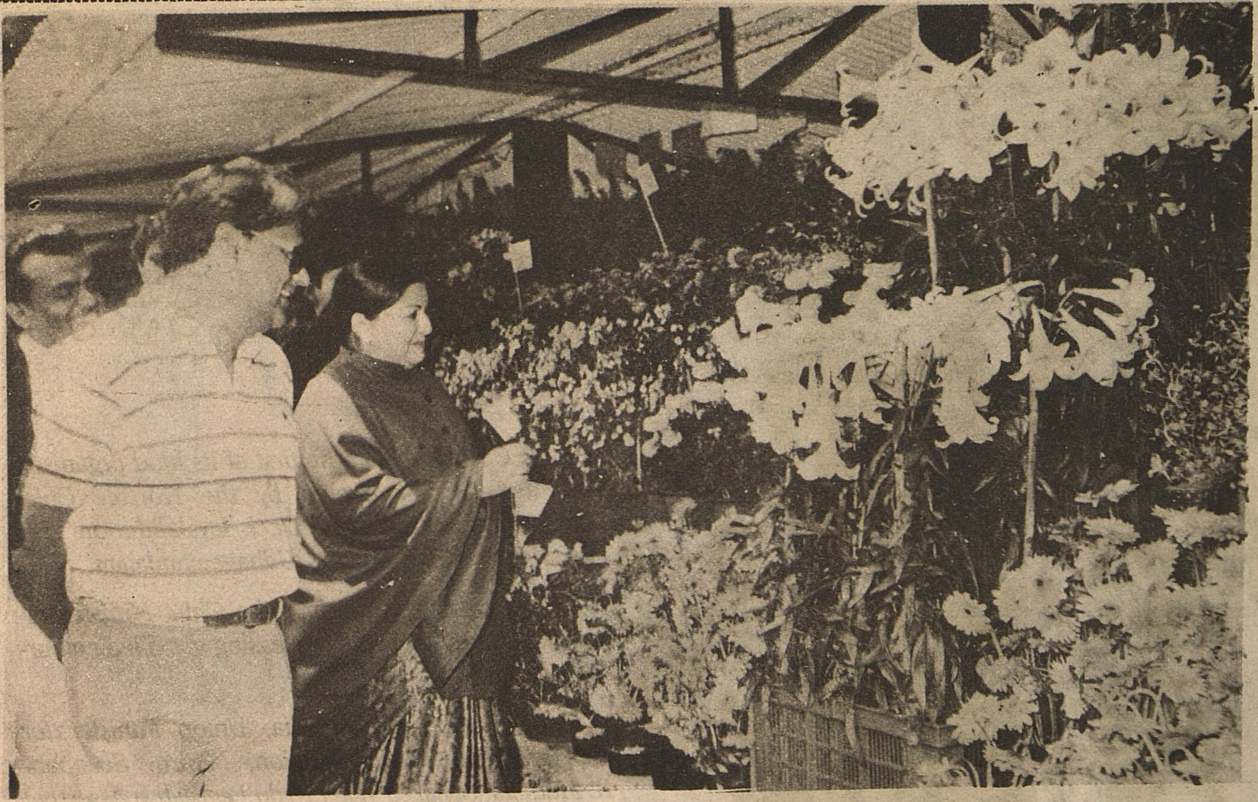
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the annual flower show at Udhagamandalam on 16th May 1992.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the flower show, and laid foundation stones for various welfare schemes. In her inaugural address she said the Government was taking steps to check deforestation by introducing a law.

She expressed deep concern over the plight of the tribal communities. Several welfare schemes had been drawn up for Todas but more needed to be done. She said the loan amount now being given to the Toda Tribal Communities of the Nilgiris would be hiked to Rs.1 lakh per family from Rs.25,000. This 7 crore scheme would enable each Toda family to cultivate tea on the 5 acres of land already provided by the Government.

She expressed happiness in inaugurating various welfare schemes for the District at a cost of Rs.32.29 crore. She said the Carnival-1992 introduced as part of this annual flower show at Udhagamandalam would attract the tourists.

She expressed her wish to make Ooty lake as beautiful as Dal lake in Kashmir. The Government had found a permanent solution to the drinking water problem in Ooty, she said. She requested the Centre to grant per-



mission and fund to establish a Regional Catering Institute at Kethi village in Ooty. She said whenever a project is submitted to the Centre for approval and finance, we used to get the same replies like, it will be taken up shortly, it will be considered, we will look into it, etc., but now we have a Union Minister like Thiru Scindia who is asking us to submit more projects. She thanked him for his earnestness. If a 'Palace on Wheels' was introduced similar to that in Rajasthan it would boost tourism in Tamil Nadu, she added.

She said the problem of militants had affected the inflow of tourists to Jammu and Kashmir and more tourists were now coming to Ooty. She requested the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Thiru Madhav rao Scindia to sanction an air strip for Ooty. She suggested that a vayudoot or a Helicopter service could be introduced.

She requested the cooperation of the people to restore the hill station to its beauty. She said Ooty is getting defaced by construction of new buildings and factories. So, only by making it a law not to construct any building in future, the beauty of the hill station could be maintained, she added.

Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation in his special address said the Ooty flower show was wellknown throughout the country.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah presided over the function.

Ministers Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Thiru S. Kannappan, Thiru Alagu Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru Ku.Pa. Krishnan and Chief Secretary, Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, IAS also spoke on the occasion.

The inaugural function was attended by Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Administrative and Police officials and a large gathering.

Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, IAS, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and Selvi Leena Nair, IAS, Collector, Nilgiris District, proposed a vote of Thanks.

CARNIVAL - 1992

The Carnival-1992, the first of its kind organised in Ooty was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 17th May 1992 at C.T.C.Square, Udhagamandalam.

Amidst a large gathering, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Carnival by releasing gas filled colourful baloons.

Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary to Government, the District Collector and other higher officials participated in the festival.

The Carnival commenced with the playing of Nadaswaram Music by the Hindu Religious and

Charitable Endowment Department, Ooty followed by a procession of nine caparisoned elephants of the Forest Department. Artistes from various States demonstrated their skills in music and traditional and folk dances. The Chief Minister, to the delight of the public danced with the dancers of the tribal communities of Nilgiris effortlessly.

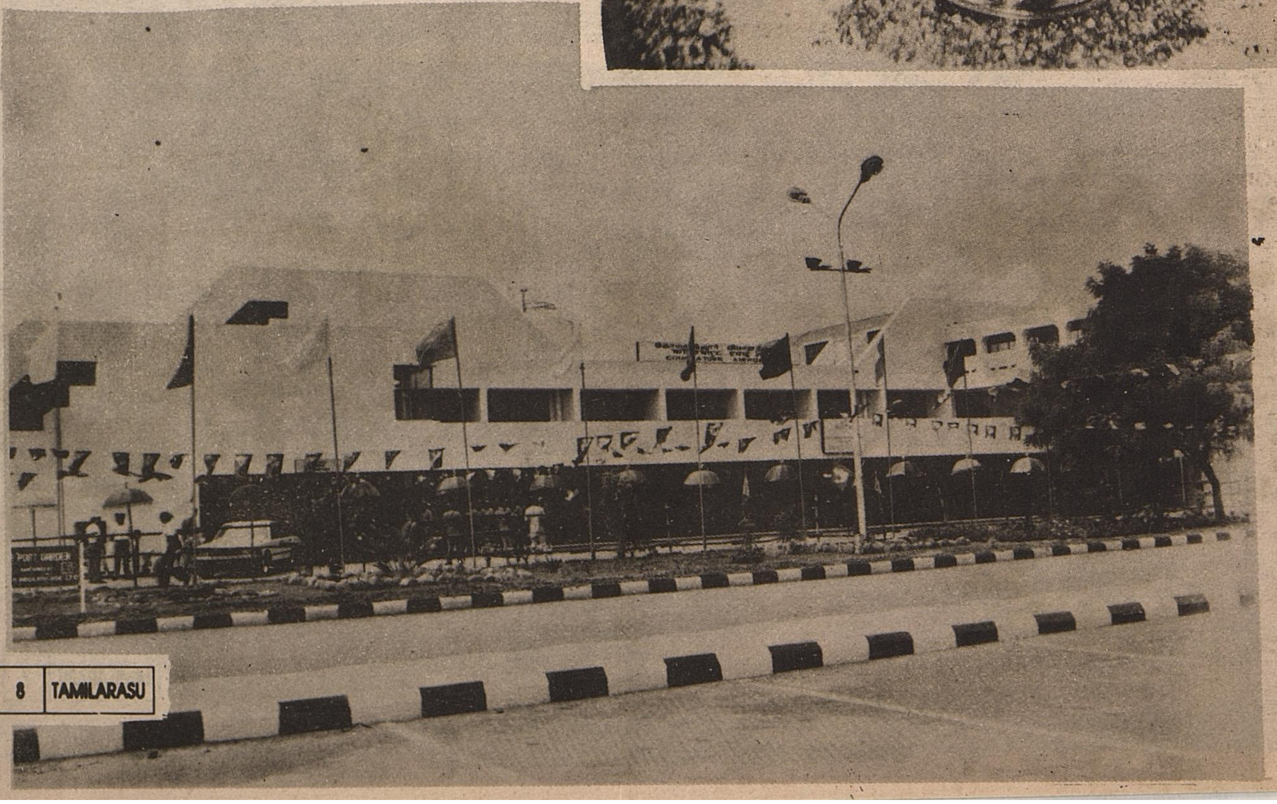
The dances were followed by the floats, band display by school children, a long dragon formed by dancers, dances from various Districts of the State and dances by school children.

The Carnival concluded with the releasing of baloons.

NEW TERMINAL BUILDING AT COIMBATORE AIRPORT

The New Terminal building at Coimbatore Airport was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. . Jayalalitha at a colourful function held at Coimbatore Airport complex on 15th May 1992.

The Chief Minister unveiled plaques to inaugurate the new complex and launched welfare and development schemes for the State and delivered her key note address. She thanked Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation and Thiru M.O.H. Farook, the Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism for implemening several schemes in the South in Civil Aviation and Tourism. She urged the Centre to help upgrade the Coimbatore Airport to handle international flights. She said that several welfare schemes costing Rs.161 crore were be-



ing launched despite the severe financial crunch faced by the Government.

Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation presided over the function. In his presidential address he said the Centre would do its best to accord Tamil Nadu a place of prominence in the tourism map of India. He appealed to the Chief Minister to send new projects for promoting tourism in Tamil Nadu. He thanked the Chief Minister for giving the land free of cost and said a new airport would be constructed in Salem.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Ministers Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Thiru S. Kannappan, Thiru Alagu Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru K.P. Krishnan and the Chief Secretary Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., spoke on the occasion.

Air Marshal, Thiru C.K.S. Raje, Chairman, National Airport Authority welcomed the gathering and Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector, Coimbatore District, proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier the Chief Minister and the Union Ministers were given a grand reception at the Airport Complex. Nine elephants greeted the Chief Minister and hundreds of baloons were released on her arrival.

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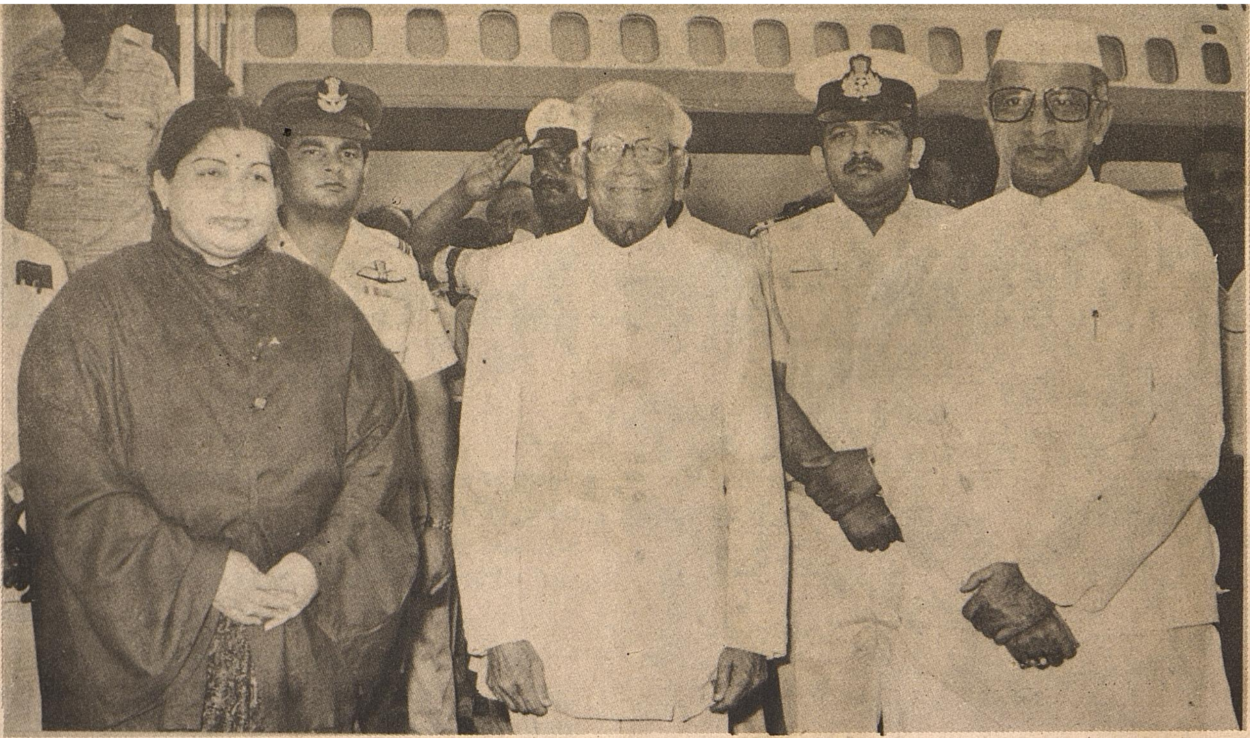
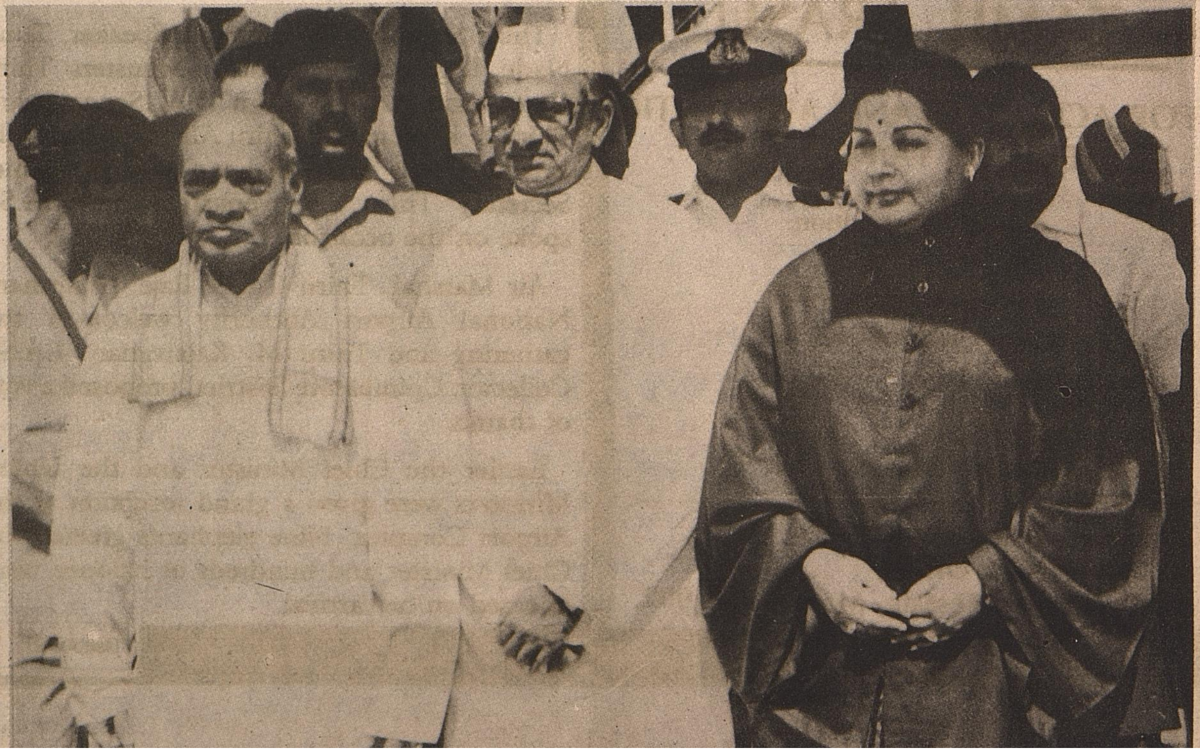
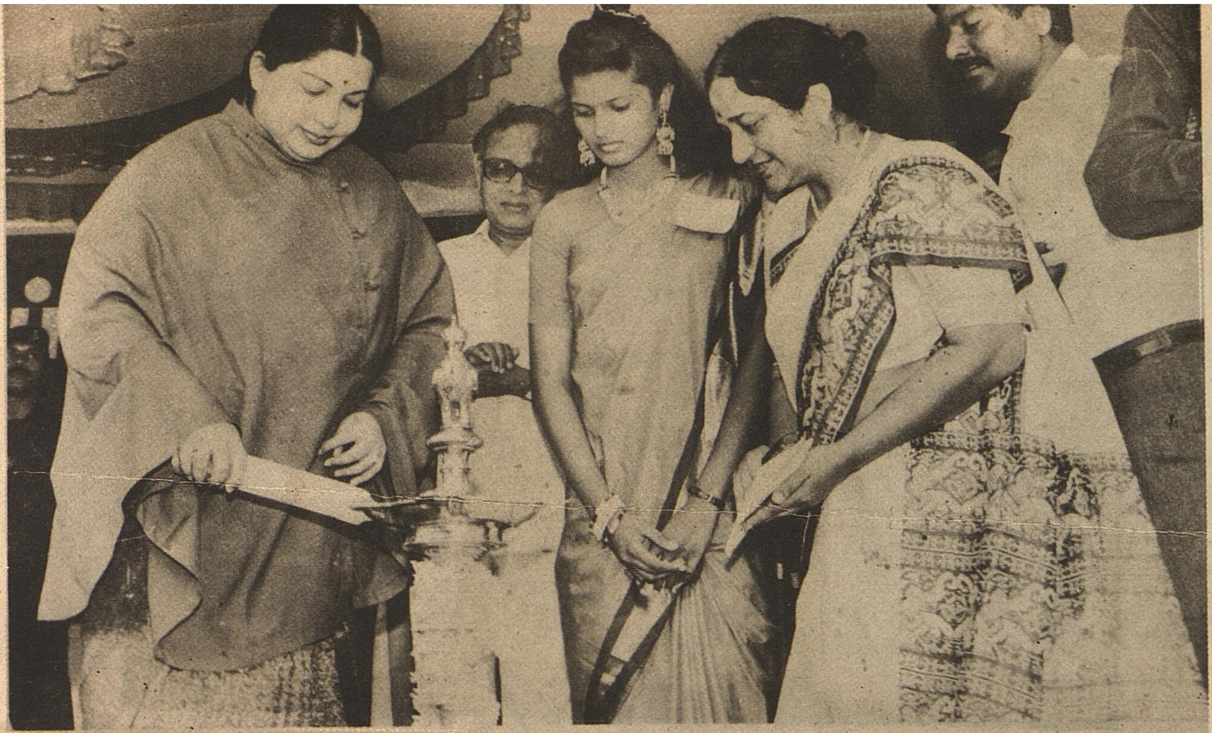


His Excellency the President of India, Thiru R. Venkataraman was accorded a warm reception at the old Meenambakkam Airport by His Excellency the Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, when he arrived at Mardas on 30th May 1992.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao was accorded a warm reception by His Excellency the Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha when he arrived at Madras on 21st May 1992, to pay homage to former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi.





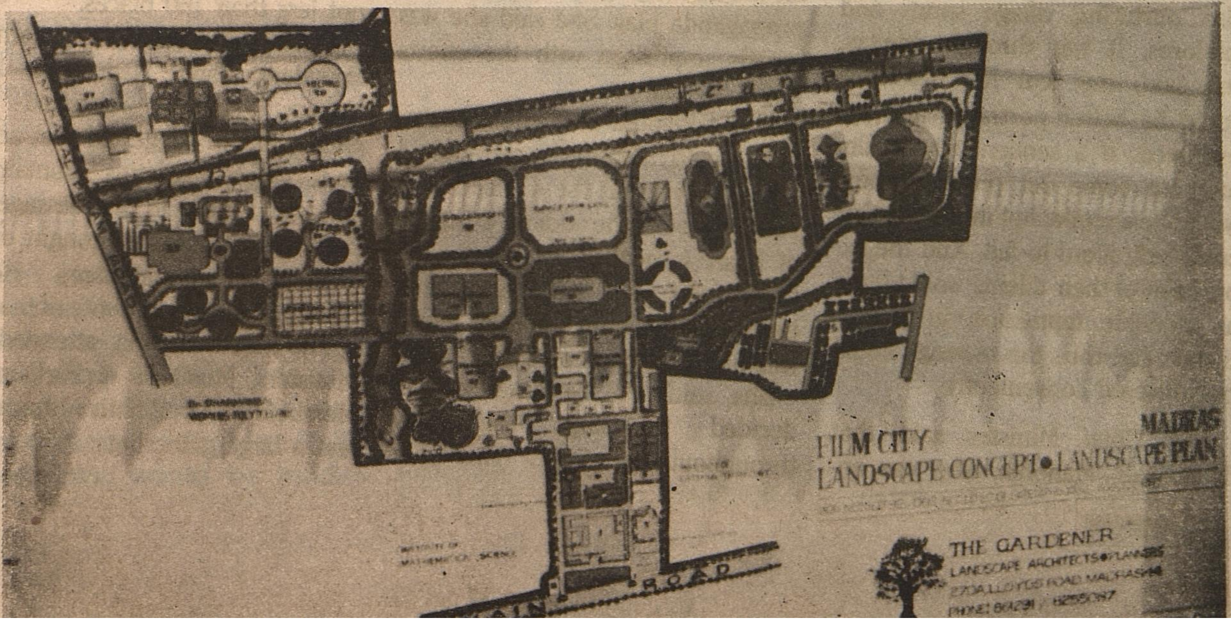
FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR FILM CITY

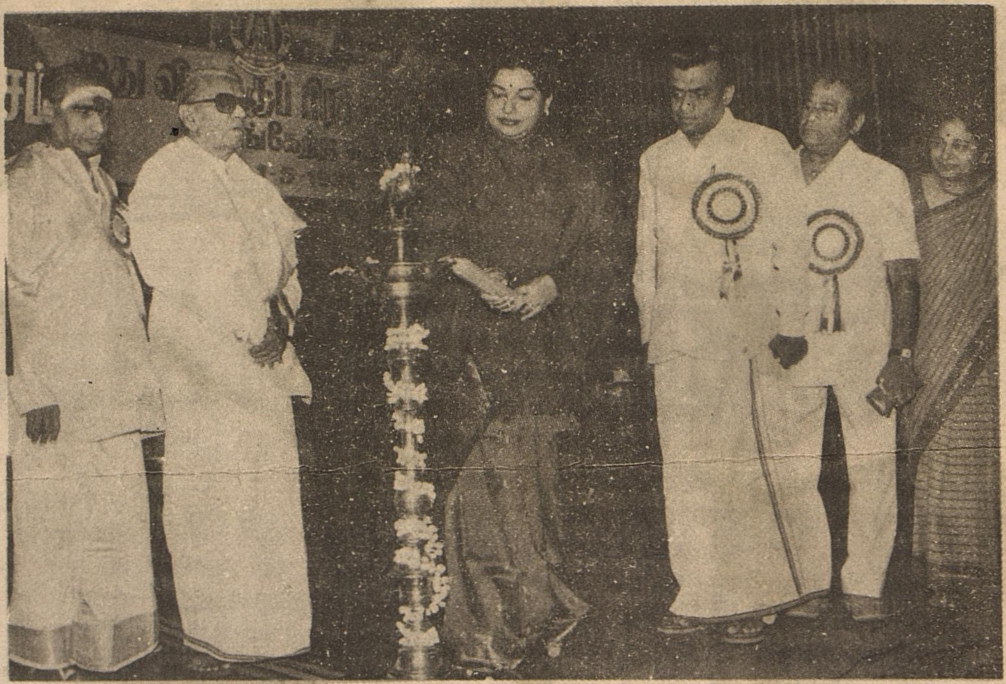
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha laid the foundation stone for the 'Film City' to come up on 86 hectares in the Film Institute Complex in Taramani on 28th May 1992. A sum of Rs.70 lakh has been allotted for the completion of the first phase of the project. The Film City would have all the facilities required for film production. It would also be developed into a tourist spot.

The Chief Minister lighted a Kuthuvilakku on the occasion and saw a model of Film City kept on the dais and the Engineers explained the details.

The students of the Film Institute offered garlands and bouquets to the Chief Minister and a momento was also presented to her by the employees of the Institute.

Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Thiru K. Ganesan, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations also participated in the function.





VELICHAM

Velicham (Light), a Tamil play on prohibition, produced by the Government of Tamil Nadu, at a cost of Rs.2 lakh, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 1st May, 1992 at the Music Academy, Madras.

After inaugurating the play, the Chief Minister said that drama had proved to be a powerful medium in spreading messages to people and also nurturing village songs and folklores. It was through dramas, she said, the real life situations could be better portrayed and appreciated. If a sequence in a film had not come out properly there would be a retake but in plays artiste could not afford to fail. And the expression of their talents would leave an indelible impression on the audience and thus the message could be conveyed conveniently.

The Chief Minister said that Thiru R.S. Manohar, who was entrusted the job of producing the drama had carved out a place for himself in staging quality plays. Praising Thiru R.S. Manohar, she said in producing the historic and legendary plays he would take the audience to that age. He had the ability of bringing the stone age to the present. His dramas would have everything -lessons, messages and fun, and that is why he was chosen for the task of producing prohibition propaganda play. She said she was greatly impressed with the efforts taken by him.

She reiterated that the Government would intensify the steps it had taken to wipe out the menace of illicit liquor. For the addicts, a change of heart is needed to give up the habit and for producing that psychological change in their minds this play had been produced.

She said, the Government had decided to stage this play throughout the State. This play would be staged for free bearing the additional expenditure since the play would help in creating the right awareness among the people which would lead to the State's goal of total prohibition.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, presided over the function.

Thiru R.S. Manohar, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram, said that there is a possibility of staging Velicham in not less than 160 places.

Thiru Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, President, Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai, Nataka Manram welcomed the gathering. He suggested that audio and video cassettes containing songs and films on the messages of prohibition could be brought out.

Thiru. K. Malaisamy, Home Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was attended by Ministers, Members of Parliament Members of Legislative Assembly and a large gathering.

38th HANDLOOM FESTIVAL 1992

The 38th Handloom Festival was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 2nd May 1992 at Egmore, Madras.

In her inaugural address she said the Handloom industry never depended on mechanisation and that was why it has weathered all competitions. Of 4.27 lakh Handlooms in the State around 3.27 lakh Handlooms had been brought under the Cooperative movement. It was commendable, she said, that Cooptex through its 457 sales showrooms was selling the entire production from the societies.

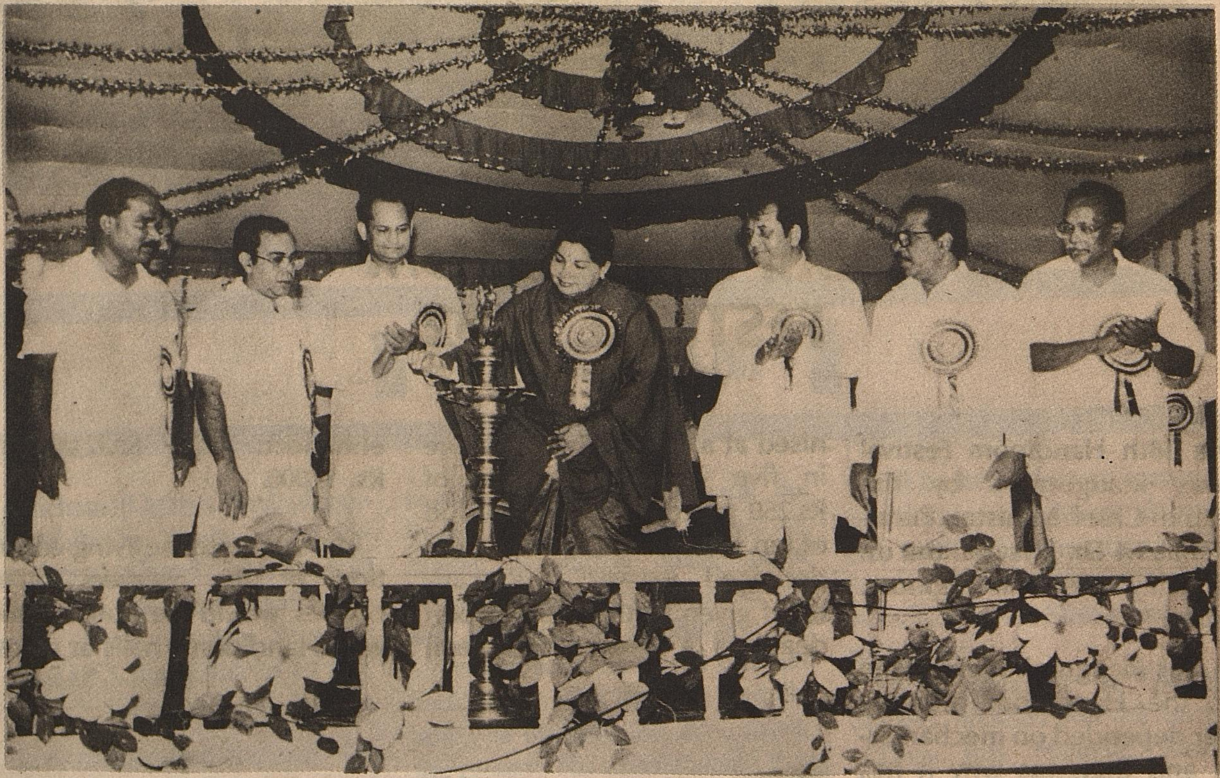
She enumerated various schemes announced by the Government, and said 37,500 Handlooms would be converted into 75,000 powerlooms over a period of 10 years; 50,000 handlooms would be modernised at a cost of Rs.42.31 crore in five years; a pension of Rs.250 per month for a period of ten years to the family of the deceaced weaver; the cash relief given to the family upon death of a weaver had been enhanced from Rs.12,000 to Rs. 17,000.

To ameliorate the living condition of the weavers, 2,000 houses would be constructed with Handlooms halls at a cost

of Rs.25,000 each. She said the preliminary works for location of a cooperative spinning mill for women at Bargur had commenced. 'Vilakam', a village in Chengalpattu-MGR District had been selected by the Government for providing all the facilities. Tamil Nadu is the first state to implement this project which would be implemented at a cost of Rs.25 lakh.

To cap it all, the distribution of dhoties and saris to nearly 1.2 crore landless farm labourers would provide continuous employment to the weavers in the State, the Chief Minister said.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker presided over the function. Thiru E. Madhusudhanan, Minister for Handlooms spoke on the occasion. Thiru N.P. Gupta, Managing Director, Cooptex proposed a vote of thanks.



ALL INDIA HANDLOOM WEAVERS CONFERENCE

The All India Handloom Weavers Conference was held at the 'Kamarajar Thidal', Teynampet, Madras on May 9th and 10th 1992.

The inaugural session of the two days National Conference was presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who also dedicated the modernised handloom to the Nation. She distributed the Relief fund to the Weavers and delivered the key note address.

The Chief Minister said that it would be Government's effort to further modernise the handlooms so that new designs could be evolved. For protecting the handlooms one could not stop the growth of powerlooms. That is why the Government introduced a scheme for helping these handloom Weavers who wished to switch over to powerlooms. Under these schemes 37,500 handloom weavers would be supplied with 75,000 powerlooms over a period of 10 years and priority would be only to handloom weavers under this programme.

Of the 4.27 lakh handlooms in the State, around 3.27 lakh

handlooms were functioning under co-operatives. The Chief Minister appealed to all weavers to come under the co-operative sector so that it would become possible to extend all help to them. She promised to consider the demand for withdrawal of 2 percent sales tax on hank yarn after the financial position of the state had improved. She said that the demand made for supply of hank yarn at concessional rates to handlooms run by private businessmen could not be accepted, since those running handlooms on commercial basis would have to face the competition. At the same time the Government, would come forward to help weavers in this matter, even if they had not come under co-operative sector.

The Chief Minister said that while the co-operative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu strictly adhered to the norm of producing 50 percent of its capacity for the production of hank yarn and also distributed hank yarn to handloom weavers at fair prices, spinning mills in private sectors had obtained a stay in the court against this norm specified by the Textile Commissioner. She made a demand to the Centre that if the spinning mills under the National Textile Corporation allocated 50 percent of its capacity for production of hank yarn, the supply of hank yarn to handloom sectors could be improved considerably.

Earlier the Chief Minister presented cash relief to eight handloom weavers under the auspices of Saravana Bavanandam Trust.

Thiru Ashok Gehlot, Union Minister of State for Textiles inaugurated the Conference and explained the effort of the Centre to make easy the availability of hank yarn. He said a hank yarn bank would be set up in future.

Thiru. Rangarajan Kumara mangalam, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice unveiled the Portrait of Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi and other pioneers of the handloom industry and said there should exist a cordial relations between the Handloom Sector and readymade garment manufacturing unit.

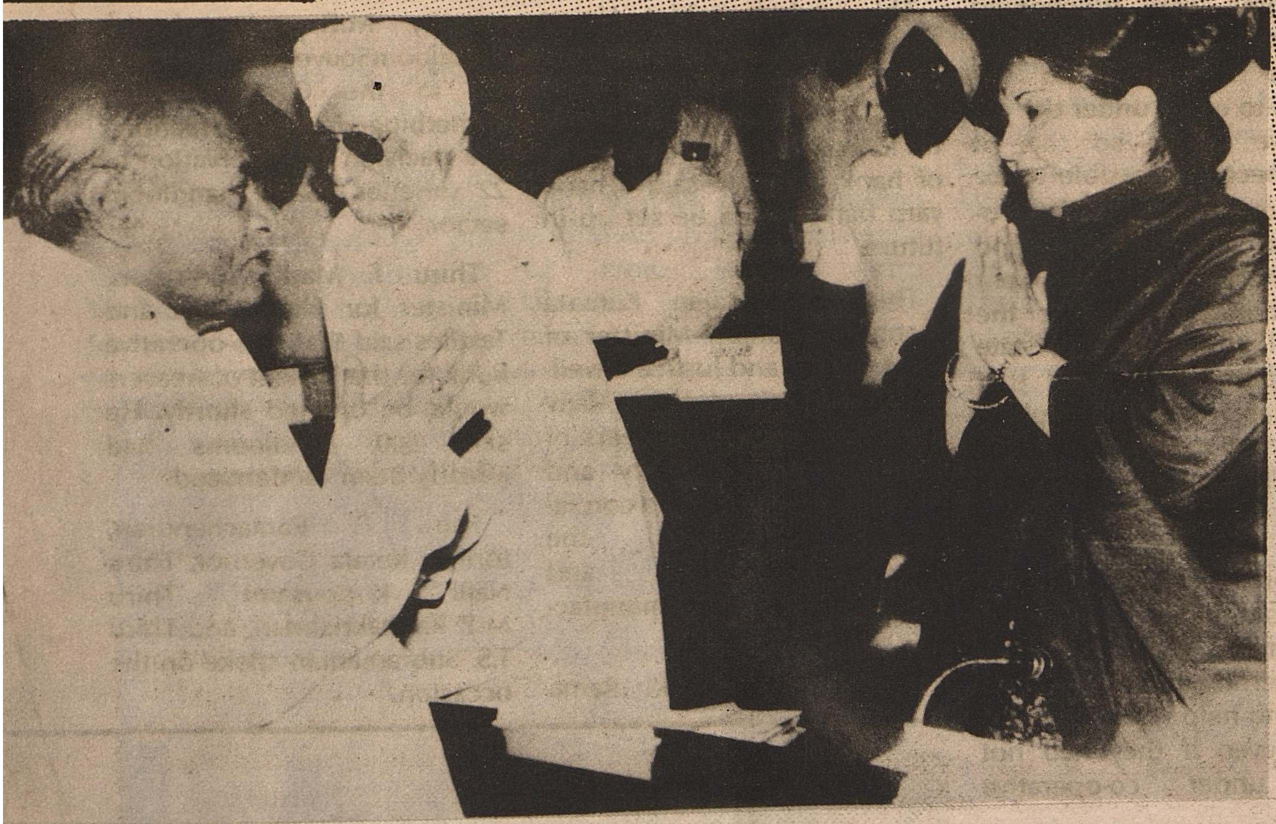
Thiru. Vazhapadi K. Rama murthy, M.P., released the handloomSouvenir and appealed to the Centre to do something for implementing the decision on reservation of 22 varieties to the handloom sector.

Thiru E. Madhu sudhanan, Minister for Handlooms and Textiles said that a co-operative Bank for the benefit of weavers would be opened shortly. He said 500 handlooms had already been modernised.

Thiru P. Ramachandran, former Kerala Governor, Thiru Nalli Kuppusami, Thiru M.P. Radhakrishnan, and Thiru T.S. Subramanian spoke on the occasion.

TAMILNADU TO SET UP LABOUR REHABILITATION FUND

The Tamil Nadu Government is to set up a labour rehabilitation fund to help workers who might be rendered jobless following closure of sick industrial units. The fund would be started with an initial contribution of Rs.1 crore. The Centre had been asked to allocate Rs.50 crores towards the fund. Workers would be provided compensation for closure of these sick units which might not be able to provide compensation to workmen.



FIRM AND SURE STEPS TO BUILD A VIBRANT MODERN SOCIETY

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Governor, Chief Ministers and Members of the National Development Council,

At the outset, I wish to extend my greetings to all of you, as we are assembled here to discuss and finalise the Eighth Five Year Plan.

It is indeed a happy augury for the future that we have been able to weather the severe economic crisis and chart out in the Eighth Plan a new course of purposive action towards growth and development. Let us all rededicate ourselves to the urgent task of national development. The launching of the Eighth Plan, although unfortunately delayed, marks a significant landmark in the history of the planned development of free India. While broadly endorsing the size and content of the Eighth Plan as also the priorities, I welcome this opportunity to share some thoughts on the issues in the agenda before us.

We have just begun to see the light at the end of a dark tunnel of economic distress. As we pledge ourselves to ensure a better life for the millions of the poor in our country we have to take note of some harsh realities which confront us in this task. I do not wish to go into all the complexities of macro economic theory except to emphasise that for an economy like ours,with amassive pupulation and millions of the poor, the strategy of development has necessarily to be

homespun, drawn from our own experience and has to pass the ultimate test as to whether it will improve the quality of life of the poor. While market-friendly approaches have now become the accepted wisdom, development economics has to find new moorings to meet the ultimate challenge of providing a better life for the teeming millions of the poor in a country like ours. This stupendous task of removal of poverty should be the main focus of the Eighth Plan and the Indian Experiment in this regard would have to be unique in the context of the special circumstances we are facing.

We cannot continue in isolation in a fast changing world. With signs of recession in many countries in the developed world, the task of integrating with the global economy is not going to be easy. Inflation has to be contained. Inflation, particularly the rise in food prices, has hurt the poor. We have to ensure that the poor are protected. On our part we have organised an effective public distribution system and kept the price of basic cereals like rice affordable by the poor.

State Governments, which are so much closer to the people in their everyday life, have had to bear the brunt of the fiscal burden of protecting the poor against the rise in food prices. While endorsing the need for fiscal discipline and the mobilisation of resources for investment, let us not forget that elimination of hunger and deprivation has to be the first and immediate objective of all economic development.

I would like to plead for extreme caution and restraint in any attempt to increase administered prices of food articles unilaterally, since it throws the finances of the States out of gear.

We have placed the highest emphasis on agricultural research and an effective extension service to reach new technology to farmers. At the same time we are greatly concerned about the total absence of any more surface water potential in Tamil Nadu and the fast dwindling ground water potential.

The Plan documents brought out by the Union Planning Commision indicate clearly the serious situation in Tamil Nadu. I have been repeatedly pleading for a fresh look at bringing surplus waters and flood flows to a totally water starved State like Tamil Nadu. I am glad that the Deputy Chairman has assured me that progress will be made in the Eighth Plan in establishing inter-basin transfers, with particular reference to the Peninsular River Waters Grid.

I trust there will be adequate outlays for this project. I would also like to highlight our need for special support from the Centre to rehabilitate the existing irrigation system, particularly in the Cauvery delta.

Full employment by the turn of the century is a goal we have accepted as central to the Eighth Plan.An essential feature of the Eighth Plan is the voyage of rediscovery by the Indian of his basic confidence to the briskly step forward and get on with the task of nation building, free of the shackles of bureaucratic controls.

Indicative planning has to facilitate private sector initiative to blossom and flourish. We have set this out clearly in our State-specific new industrial policy statement. We stand fully committed to secure rapid industrialisation, with an aggressive outward leaning approach which facilitates private sector initiative. We would need the full backing of the Centre in this drive.

The Committee on the Financial System has clearly stressed the need for encouraging competition among development finance institutions which extend term loan assistance to new industries. This suggestion is welcome. With deregulation, the powers and responsibility of actuating industrial growth now fall almost entirely on these institutions. It is essential to plan for an enduring system in the new situation.

May I suggest that, in line with the recommendations, of the Committee on the Financial System, we establish 4 or 5 industrial development banks with a regional focus. It is also appropriate to have State Governments' representatives on the Boards of these Banks. This will ensure transparency in their operations. Madras, as a major Financial Services Centre, can be the headquarters of the

Southern Regional Industrial Bank.

In our mission to acheive full employment, we have to give pride of place to small industries and business, particularly in the rural nonfarm sector. The reforms in the financial sector should not lead to any adverse change in the credit flows to priority sectors. An analysis of the sectoral changes in the State Domestic Product clearly indicates the vital importance of this sector.

While there can be no two opinions on the need to restore health to the financial institutions, we should ensure adequate credit flows to the priority sectors which generate massive productive employment.

At the last meeting of this Council, I pointed out that Tamil Nadu had not seen a single substantial Central investment worth the name for more than two decades. I had also expressed my disappointment over Tamil Nadu's share in the pipeline of Central Public Sector projects for the Eighth Plan. I am glad that my plea has not gone unheeded. I wish to thank the Prime Minister for giving clearance for the Aromatics mega project to be established in the joint sector at Madras. With this happy beginning I hope the tide will turn and the Central Government will pay greater attention to our continuing request for an enhanced level of Central investment in Tamil Nadu in the Eighth Plan.

We have placed the highest emphasis on rapid development of the energy sector. I would in particular like to refer to the Third Lignite Minecut at Neyveli which has not found place in the Plan document. It is necessary that an early start is made on this project in the Eighth Plan. I do not also find any reference to the Southern Gas Grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu. We would like to take up the exploitation of both PY-III and PY-I structures in the Cauvery off-shore area, together with a linked 300 Mega watts gas based power plant in the joint or associate sector.

I do hope this suggestion will be considered. Work on the Satellite Port at Ennore near Madras to bring coal to new thermal plants which are nearing completion has to be cleared immediately and work taken up at once on this high priority project.

I welcome the recently announced policy decision to invite the private sector to participate in Energy Planning and development in the Eighth Plan. But I wish to emphasise that speed in decision making is essential at all levels. In Tamil Nadu we have proposed to set up a massive 1500 megawatts integrated lignite mining and thermal generation project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This mega project with a total ultimate investment of Rs.7000 crores is to be established in the joint sector. We have gone ahead to establish a new company and have also undertaken the feasibility report. I do hope that the approval for this project will be accorded early.

We also plan to establish coal based thermal plants 500 megawatts capacity each at Tuticorin and Cuddalore in the private sector. We hope that the necessary import of coal to run these plants will be cleared. I would once again like to reiterate the need to reformulate our ideas on the Koodangulam Nuclear Power Plant in the aftermath of the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Ours is a large country and it is one huge market. Some concepts of holding together this market have undergone major changes to the detriment of States like Tamil Nadu. We are now clearly adversely placed when it comes to the pricing of key inputs like steel and coal. Our plea for freight equalisation has had no response.

We may atleast be freed from the rigours of having to obtain these high cost supplies from distant States. I refer in particular to the difficulties we have to undergo in transporting coal.

I would suggest that a comprehensive package to facilitate the import of inputs like coal, should be developed. There is no reason why a State like Tamil Nadu should not be allowed to go to outside markets for basic inputs.

At the last meeting of this Council I had indicated our strategy of developing an outward leaning economy given the special problems facedby theState.I had in fact suggested two initiatives to make this happen. I refer to the Free Port and the Trade Corridor with Singapore.

I hope the announcement of one free port will not preclude the early establishment of a second free port in Tamil Nadu. I am very keen that these two ideas are given shape quickly so that we can ensure good progress in the Eighth Plan.

We have to ensure adequate outlays for basic infrastructure such as roads and water supply so that real improvement can be made. In particular I am concerned about the state of our roads.

We have made certain requests relating to the formation of the East Coast National Highway, four laning of certain national highways and the conversion of certain state highways to national highways. I would request early clearance for these projects. May I also request an early decision on the allocation to the States of the augmented Central Road Fund? Inspite of a resolution of the Parliament, the increased accruals to this Fund have not been made available to the States.

We have just finalised a project based on toll collections to finance accelerated road development. We have given the highest priority to the proper maintenance of roads.

In the Eighth Plan we have given the maximum priority to the provision of the safe drinking water. While we have tackled the immediate problem of providing at least one drinking water source to every habitation, we are confronted with the massive task of ensuring protected water supply to a large number of habitations which have a total breakdown every summer.

We have formulated a Rs.528.50 crore project to be implemented with external assistance to tackle this problem. May I suggest early clearance of this project? The acute and chronic water shortage in Madras City is well known. I have had fruitful discussions with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and we have been able to reach a fresh agreement to ensure that Krishna water reaches Madras by June 1995.

Concurrently we have formulated a massive project with an outlay of Rs.1,180.20 crore to treat and distribute the Krishna Water. This project is awaiting acceptance by the World Bank. I request the intervention of the Prime Minister to obtain urgent clearance for this project.

The problems faced by the four Metropolitan Cities are indeed daunting. It is essential to launch a determined effort in the Eighth Plan to tackle the worsening situation in the four Metros.

We have launched the Madras Vision 2000, an integrated plan for tackling some of the major problems facing Madras. The new investment required is staggering. It is impossible for the State to find the resources for this special effort. Madras also did not get any Ninth Finance Commission for the year 1989-90. May I suggest that a new programme be launched to provide assistance for the rehabilitation of services and improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor in the four Metros?

In Tamil Nadu we have placed the highest emphasis on the provision of a safety net for the poor. At the same time the focus in our plan is on human resources development. We have accorded the highest importance to outlays on education, nutrition, health care and programmes for weaker sections. We have sought external aid for a comprehensive school education project which will focus on the education of the girl child and education quality upgradation. I seek early approval for this project.

Our success in population limitation, instead of being rewarded, seems to result in a denial of scarce resources. A powerful new incentive is needed to get the necessary political commitment for this programme of vital national importance. May I suggest that in allocating resources to States with a per capita income below the national average, under the modified Gadgil formula, the computation of income may be done with reference to the 1971 population of States? This will be consistent with the practice being adopted for distribution of the 60 per cent component based on population. I would also like to caution against the reduction of resources from the Centre to States which have done well in population limitation. This

would be unfair.

Poverty alleviation programmes will receive high priority in the Eighth Plan of our State. Our focus in this regard has to be on steady growth, massive employment, a sound distribution policy, and a well designed package of direct poverty alleviation interventions. I must express my concern about the cut back in the outlays for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. As a direct intervention programme putting wages in the hands of the rural poor, we should protect the outlays for this programme in real terms. Let us not, even in the midst of a fiscal crisis, deny the daily meal to the poor. We should in fact pay special attention to the innovative management of distribution systems, health and nutrition services and direct poverty alleviation programmes. This calls for a close look at these programmes, with a view to introducing innovations and enlarging the support base.

With larger private sector participation in key and new areas, the Centre can indeed look forward to some reduced direct responsibility. The States with their major role in social services will be subject to even greater fiscal stress. I am of the view that there is a pronounced shift in the shouldering of responsibilities to the States. There is no accompanying shift in the sharing of resources. The transfer of resources from the Centre to the States should be improved upon. With the mounting repayment obligations including the interest burden, net transfers of States are indeed quite low. While I grant that the Eighth Plan has been formulated ûnder difficult circumstances, I should think that we could have improved upon resource flows to the States. I must mention, that, as a matter of fact, there have been improved transfers during each plan period and I hope this will be possible in the Eighth Plan.

The distribution of Central assistance between States is governed by the Gadgil formula as revised by the National Development Council in December 1991. At that meeting I had highlighted the problems in correctly analysing the per capita income data. I have been assured that this will be gone into further. My suggestion that the 1971 population could be adopted in computing the per capita income could perhaps resolve this issue. As the per capita income data is to be corrected on a year to year basis, this suggestion could easily be implemented. I do not have to go into the varied special problems faced by Tamil Nadu. I do hope this will be recognized in resource flows.

Our sea border problem has been recognized. We have received a little assistance last year. I would like to insist that an exclusive reservation of Central assistance be continued for States having special border problems.

State plans are now heavily dependent on resource flows based on external aid. There is a noticeable slowdown in the appraisal and clearance of State projects. I would like to suggest a better dialogue between the Centre and the States on the pipeline of new projects, and other issues. I am also concerned about the move to harden the terms of assistance given to the States based on external aid. I am of the view that a short term view based on trimming the Central Budget should not be taken on this issue.

States implement difficult projects primarily in the social services sector and it would not be fair to ask them to shoulder increased coats. Hundred percent of the external assistance received is still not being passed on to the States in some sectors. In the light of assurances already given hundred percent assistance should be passed on to States in respect of all projects without exception.

While we have to raise extra resources to finance the Plan, we are confronted with the serious erosion in the flows of Small Savings loans. The States thus begin the Eighth Plan with a major handicap. While some improvements in the incentives for savings have been announced recently, these do not go far enough. While these long term measures to simplify the income tax structure, base and yield are not without merits, the sudden and serious liquidity crisis imposed on the States cannot be ignored.

This is too major a transition and cannot be rushed through in one year. May I suggest restoration of a provision to provide tax benefits for investments in small savings? This

At the NDC meeting on 23.5.92, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha intervened during the discussion and made the follwing suggestions:

The Prime Minister may constitute a Committee of the NDC for making recommendations on the modalities of transfer of the augmented resources for Rural Development under Central budgetary support to the States, providing for complete flexibility to the States to implement programmes appropriate to their conditions. This transfer must be on 100% grant basis over and above the Central assistance to the plans of the States.

Consignment Tax: In my speech I have referred to the delay in giving effect to the levy of consignment tax. The States are surprised at the delay in actually implementing this levy. Shri Rajiv Gandhi took the initiative to discuss this subject and certain conclusions have already been reached. I do not think any State would like to stand in the way of its early implementation. It would seem that in our attempt to finalise all details relating to exemptions to certain commodities, and the role of the Centre and States in exercising certain powers, the entire issue is getting delayed, I am sure all the other Chief Ministers will join me in requesting that this levy be brought into force through an Enactment, at least in the next session of the Parliament. This levy has become crucial to the financing of the State's Eighth Plan and an immediate decision is necessary.

The Centre should consider the constitution of a Special Contingency Fund to provide additional funds for damages caused by natural calamities. The Calamity Relief Fund which has now been allocated to the States is sadly inadequate. The States have each been allocated a Calamity Relief Fund of Rs.35 crore - 37 crore etc. However, the damages caused by natural calamities such as cyclones are often in the range of Rs.400 to Rs.500 crore. Under such circumstances, where do the States go to find the necessary funds for relief and restoration works? there are electricity connections that have to be restored; roads which have to be relaid; vital installations that have to be repaired. The Calamity Relief Fund allocated to the States is woefully inadequate.

I am not suggesting that the Centre should give the States an open ended commitment in this regard. Instead the Centre should constitute a Special Contingency Fund and whenever the States require additional Funds over and above their respective Calamity Relief Fund, the Centre can depute a team of officials to assess the damages and the States' requirements may be met from the Special Contingency Fund.

has to be an exclusive provision for small savings. Unless this is done, despite some improved flows through higher collections in income tax collections, the states will find it extremely difficult to fulfil the Eighth Plan.

The Tenth Finance Commission is to be constituted shortly. At the last meeting of this Council, I dwelt on the difficulties faced by States like Tamil Nadu, following the implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission. The implicit reduction in the share of basic excise duties given to all States, without reference to their deficits, the severity of the normative assessment process which ignored substantial expenditure which had to be incurred and the imperfections in the operations of the scheme of plan revenue grants have brought about difficult financial situations for States like Tamil Nadu for no fault of theirs.

We are faced with a substantial deficit in the balance from current revenues. The constitution of the Tenth Finance Commission is of utmost importance to the States in the context of the Eighth Plan, as its recommendations will be operative for two years of the Eighth Plan. While there have been some consultations at the official level with a study group, may I suggest that all States be involved in the process of drawing up the terms of reference of the Tenth Finance Commission.

In the context of the severe resources crisis faced by the States despite earnest efforts to mobilise additional resources, it is necessary that an early decision is taken to implement the consignment tax. This issue has been

discussed on several occasions. There is a broad consensus and very few details need to be sorted out. I am quite sure that with the cooperation of the Chief Ministers we can reach an immediate solution. I have stressed the need to bring forth a Bill in Parliament to provide for the levy of this tax.

I do hope we can reach a decision even in this meeting to bring this levy into force within a specific time frame.

The States are now required to provide major infrastructure for industrial development. Not all infrastructure costs can be recovered. Export oriented industries do not also yield any tax revenues to the States. I had suggested special central assistance to improve the infrastructure in towns with export oriented industries. States do not also get any share in the Corporation tax.

I feel that the time has come for some share in the Corporation tax to be made available by the Central Government in view of the specific responsibility of the States to provide for infrastructure facilities for industrial growth.

The changing Indian economy, buffeted and tossed about in the stormy seas of severe economic crisis in the past has struggled through, relying heavily on the forbearance, fortitude and tolerance of our people.

We cannot take our people for granted. We cannot assume that our people will continue to display these noble qualities in the face of growing economic hardship. It behoves us to ensure a policy framework that will not call for sacrifices bordering on want and deprivation. As we launch the Eighth Plan let us rededicate ourselves to the task of providing a better life for millions of Indians.

Let us not allow any feeling of alienation to tear as under the magnificent tapestry of our polity. Let us cast aside the gloom of zero growth, the trails and tribulations posed by inflation and take firm and sure steps to build a vibrant modern society brimming with the confidence of ushering in a new age.

Prime Minister in his opening statement expressed his concern about political discrimination in development schemes in certain States. I wish to assure the Prime Minister that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is absolutely no political discrimination with regard to development schemes. I wish to bring to the notice of this august body and the Prime Minister that we have implemented a special Self-Sufficiency Scheme in Tamil Nadu, whereby one crore rupees is provided to each Panchayat Union for development works. We have 386 Panchayat Unions in Tamil Nadu and I wish to point out that regardless of political affiliation one crore rupees has been provided to each and every Panchayat Union in the State.

(Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the National Development Council at New Delhi on 22nd May 1992.)

I Wrapper

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi on his first death anniversary on 21st May 1992 at Sriperumbudur, where he was assassinated.

IV Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurating the Carnival 1992 at Udhagamandalam on 17th May 1992 and dancing with the dancers of the tribal communities.

BIS AND INFANT CARE

The delicate new born baby needs utmost care for its proper growth. Ample nutrition, hygiene and safe and comfortable infant usables ensure its sound development. Quality assurance in products meant for infants, therefore, bears its defined importance. Realizing this, the Bureau of Indian Standards has formulated standards on products meant for infants. Some of these are also covered under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Marks Scheme. The products on which standards have been formulated include infant foods and infant formula, baby toilet soap, baby incubators, baby weighing machines, skin powder for infants, baby dropside hospital cots and safe toys for infants.

Guidance through Indian Standards treatment of premature born babies

Babies born premature need incubators for their safe keeping and treatment. An incubator is a closed chamber, designed and constructed to have built-in means of heating and humidifying the air and has provision for supply of oxygen to the chamber. An Indian Standard Specification IS 3120 : 1978 'Baby incubators' has been fomulated covering the performance, safety and general requirements for electrically heated incubators for prematurely born babies with a view to provide a comfortable, safe and convenient method of maintaining the babies at a temperature and humidity decided by medical authorities. The specification keeps in view the latest technological developments in manufacturing electrically heated incubators and includes characteristics of performance tests for thermostats and insulation resistance which are critical requirements and must be properly monitored. Provision has been made in the standard for safety and satisfactory design of the apparatus while a good deal of latitude has been allowed to the incubator manufacturer to introduce innovations and refinements.

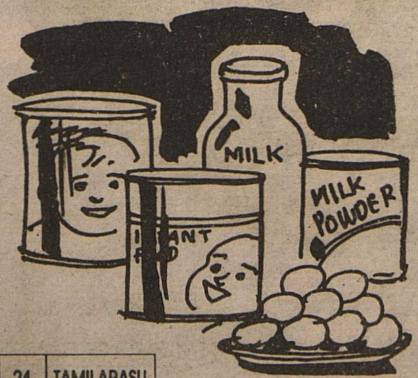
Safe placement of Infants

Dropside baby hospital cots are utilized in the hospitals for placing the infant safely and hence should be both sturdy and comfortable. An Indian Standard Specification IS 5337 : 1969 Cot, dropside, baby, hospital prescribes different characteristics for dropside baby cots. The characteristics include requirements for

dimensions, material, design, quality of matters and finish. The tests to be carried out include impact test, mattress test, adhesion test and performance test.

Feeding Requirement

Mother's milk ideally fulfils the entire requirement for growth of infant. Additionally it provides unique bio-immune factors for protecting their health. Reliance on alternate sources of nutrition is however necessary when breast feeding is not possible. Infant foods and infant formulae are intended for partial or total replacement of breast milk. To safeguard their health, it is imperative that these alternative foods are properly formulated so that nutritional requirements for optimal growth of infants are adequately met and physiological stress on the developing organ/enzymic system of the infant is kept at minimum. Indian Standard Specifications IS 1547 : 1985 Infant food and IS 11156: 1985 Infant formulae prescribe the requirements for characteristics specified and their methods of sampling and test. To provide nutrients ordinarily found in breast milk and ensure that the infant foods and infant formulae are suitable as the sole source of nutrients for infants, these standards



stipulate the levels of milk protein, milk fat and Vitamins, A and D. They also specify the minimum levels of B complex Vitamins, Vitamins C and K and minerals like copper, iodine, manganese and zinc which may be added to the infant formulae and foods. If manufactured in accordance with the requirements laid down in IS 1547 : 1985 and IS 11156 : 1985 the availability of wholesome milk food and milk formulae, respectively, for consumption by the needy infant is ensured. The infant food and infant formulae are available with the Standard Mark, the familiar ISI Mark.

Energy and Satiety Requirements

The sole source of nutrition for an infant initially is milk, either breast milk or powder milk marketed as infant milk or infant formulae. However, after a few months, the infant has to be given solid foods in addition to milk. Milk cereal based weaning foods are mainly intended to 'accustom' the infant's digestive tract to solid foods. Nutritionally, this category of foods serve as an important source of calories to meet the energy requirements due to increased physical activity. Beginning with the introduction of cereals from the age of four months, the intake is slowly increased so that by eight months of age and onwards nearly half of the total intake is from milk and remaining from cereals and a variety of other foods. With such a feeding regimen, milk almost completely meets the feeding requirement, while cereals and/or other foods meet the energy and satiety re-

quirements of the infant.

Milk cereal based weaning foods are obtained from a variety of cereals; vegetables; oils and proteins; milk solids; carbohydrates, such as sucrose; dextrose, dextrins, maltose and lactose; iron and calcium salts; phsophates and citrates; other approved nutritionally important minerals and vitamins. An Indian Standard Specifications IS 1656 : 1985 Milk Cereal Based Weaning Foods has been formulated which prescribes the requirements and methods of sampling and test for Milk cereal based weaning foods intended for feeding infants at the weaning stage.

An Indian Standard Specifications IS 6387 : 1971 Vegetable Protein Infant Food with Milk has been formulated to promote the use of vegetable proteins admixed with milk powder which can be used for substituting mother's milk. Vegetable protein infant food with milk are prepared by drying an emulsion of vegetable proteins, vegetable oil or fat and milk with added carbohydrates or by blending the components. The vegetable proteins may be derived from cereals, pulses or legumes singly or in a combination thereof.

Mandatory Certification

Through a Gazette notification amending the *Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules,* 1955, Government of India has brought infant milk food, infant formulae and milk cereal based weaning food under Compulsory Certification of Bureau of Indian Standard. Thereby no person shall manufacture, sell, store or exhibit for sale an infant milk food, infant formulae and milk cereal based weaning food except under Bureau of Indian Standard Certification Mark.

Feeding bottles are used almost universally for feeding infants. They need to be designed so as to permit easy cleaning and sterilization and to which rubber teats can be easily slipped on or secured with a metallic or plastic screw closure for providing a leakproof grip. An Indian Standard Specifications IS 5168 : 1969 Glass Feeding Bottles has been formulated which prescribes the requirements and methods of sampling and test for glass feeding bottles. The requirements to be tested include pattern, material and workmanship, capacity, dimensions, finish, scale and graduations, limit of alkalinity, and thermal shock resistance.

Rubber teat is a device on a feeding bottle for intake of milk by the infant. It is essential that the test should not contain harmful ingredients which may go into the solution and contaminate the milk or liquid baby food. Further, these often impart undesirable odour, taste or discolouration. These may cause irritation to the feeding baby on becoming

hard at times. Taking into consideration the human aspect involved, an Indian Standard Specifications IS 3565 : 1966 Rubber Teats for Feeding Bottles was formulated

This standard prescribes physical and chemical requirements for teats. Physical requirements include those for material of teats, workmanship and finish while chemical tests include acetone extract, free sulphur in acetone extract, change in physical properties, properties of water extract and pH of water extract retention test.

In the initial months of an infant's development, paediatricians utilize weighing machines to monitor growth. Controlled increase in a baby's weight indicates its proper growth. An Indian Standard Specification IS 2489 : 1963 Baby Weighing Machines has been formulated to cover chiefly the technical provisions relating to baby weighing machines. As per the standard, the baby weighing machine is a machine with a pan to place the baby to be weighed, the capacity of which has been laid down as 10, 15 or 20 kg. The weight corresponding to the interval between two graduation marks shall not exceed 50 g as prescribed in the standard, thereby giving the machine a capability of detecting even a small change in the baby's weight.

A baby's skin is much thinner and less cornified than that of an adult. It is highly susceptible to irritation and backterial attack. If superficial layers of the epidermis are damaged for any reason, various types of skin disorders may develop. Therefore, due care must be taken during the manufacture of products utilized for the general physical hygiene of infants in respect of toxicity and dermatological considerations.

Cleanliness

Baby toilet soap is an important item for keeping baby clean. An Indian Standard Specification IS 10523 : 1983 Baby Toilet Soap has been foumulated to achieve dermatological safety of toilet soaps used for babies, the choice and selection of appropriate quality and quantity of different raw materials being very important. Although the characteristics for baby toilet soaps are basically similar to those meant for adults, the requirements for these characteristics are different. Unlike the normal toilet soap, the use of rosin has been prohibited in baby soap as it may lead to irritation of the skin on account of its unsaturated nature. On a similar consideration, the standard prescribes a higher limit for total fatty matter, lower limits for free caustic and carbonated alkali and additional limits for heavy metals, namely nickel, copper and iron.

Comfort

Baby skin powders are intended to make infant feel comfortable and to help prevent skin rashes that arise from or are aggravated by excess moisture and dust. An Indian Standard Specification IS 5339 : 1978 Skin Powder for Infants has been formulated prescribing the requirements for the characteristics specified and the methods of sampling and test. In composition skin powders for infants do not differ widely from these intended for adults. One obvious difference is that infant powders are usually lightly perfumed or not perfumed at all. This is to reduce the risk of sensitization and irritation. Another significant difference is that baby powders are free from boric acid. It must be noted that inadevertent inhalation of these powders is to be avoided. Skin powders for infants should not be a case of bacteriological and fungal contamination and hence the standard prescribes that it shall be the responsibility of manufacturer for dermatological safety of the formulation before releasing it for sale. As skin powders for infants are widely used now, caution is necessary not only in the selection of the ingredients but also in their packing.

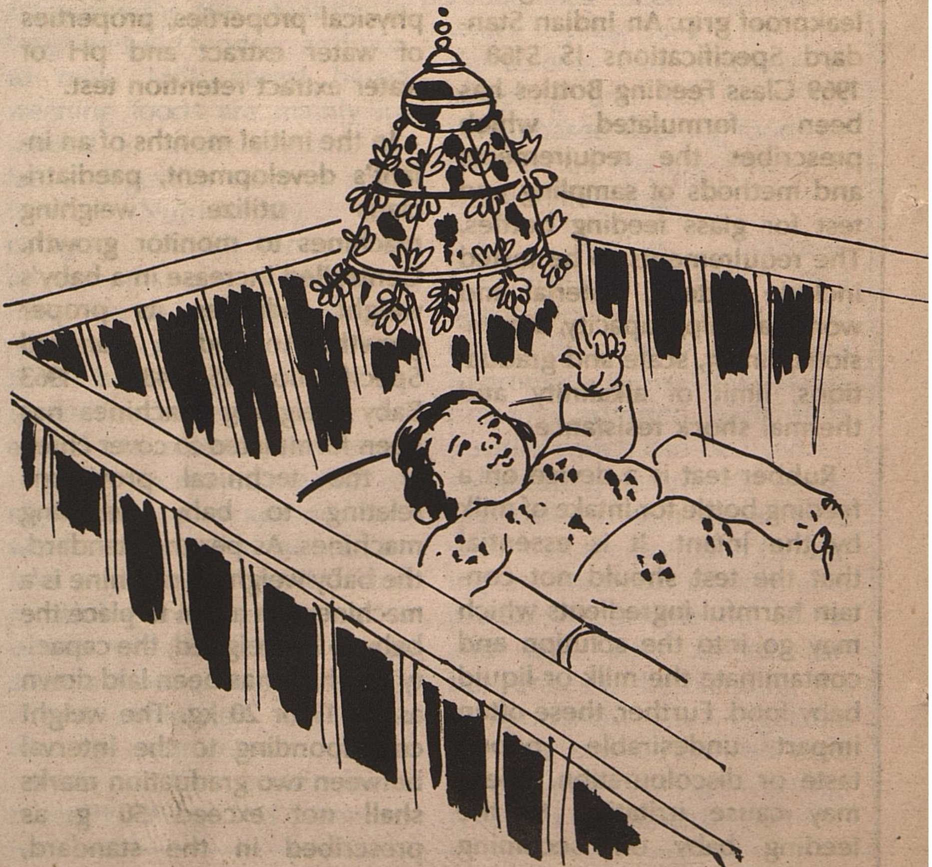
Selection of Clothing

An Indian Standard Specification IS 10015 (Part 4) : 1982 Size Designation of Clothes : Part 4 Infants Outwear Garments has been formulated with the primary aim of establishing a size designation system that indicates in a simple, direct and meaningful manner the body size of the infant that a garment is intended to fit. The system given in the specification facilitates the choice of garments that fit, provided that the shape of the infant's body as indicated by the appropriate dimensions has been accurately determined. The size designation system is based on body and not garment measurements.

Safety of Toys

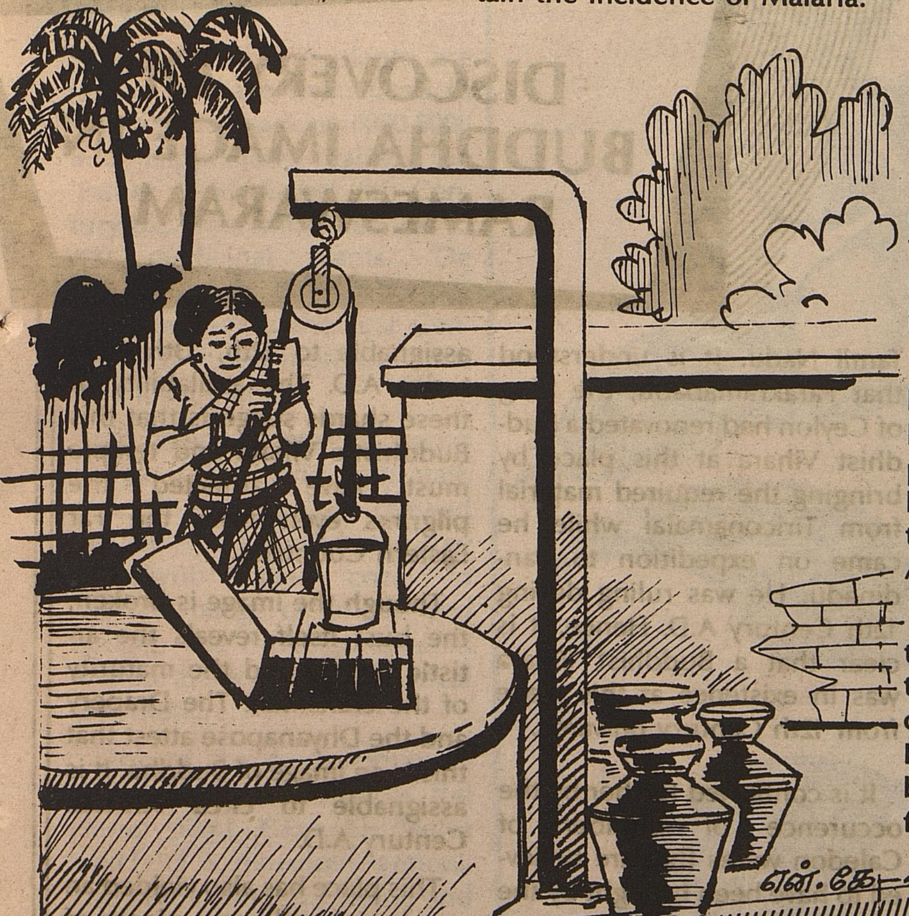
Toys are not mere playthings but also instruments for the development of a baby's physical and mental faculties and talent. However, these may become a cause of potential hazard to the baby if they are not manufactured keeping its safety in view or handled or selected without due care. Toys may have sharp edges and corners or may have been sprayed with toxic paint. Some of them may be so small that they can be easily swallowed by the baby. Under these circumstances a consumer may feel totally helpless about quality and safety aspect of toys. For the purpose of guidance in this regard, Bureau of Indian Standards has brought out a comprehensive Indian Standard Specification IS 9873 : 1981 safety Requirement of Toys (which covers in three parts, mechanical and physical properties of toys and their toxicological and flammability requirements) A guide IS 9849 : 1981 Selection of Toys of different age groups of children has also been published.

- Bureau of Indian Standards



ERADICATE MALARIA

The incidence of Malaria in Madras City is on the increase in recent years. The mosquitoes which cause Malaria mostly breed in fresh water such as the Open Wells and the Over Head Tanks. It is estimated that about 1,00,000 Wells and about 75,000 Over Head Tanks in the City are without proper protection or cover and they became a source of breeding for these mosquitoes. If the Wells/Over Head Tanks are covered properly with an inspection cover, mosquito breeding can be controlled which will in turn contain the incidence of Malaria.



Hence all the residences are requested to keep their Wells and Over Head Tanks completely covered so as to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. The Corporation of Madras has approved the cost of cover slabs for Over Head Tanks/Open Wells for a standard size as follows:

1. For Wells of 4′ dia cement slab of 2″ thickness with cast iron frame Rs.430/-

2. For Over Head Tank 4′ × 4′ size - slabs of 2″ thickness with cast iron lid Rs.415/-

There need not be any apprehension about contamination of Water because of covering of Wells/Over Head Tanks with slabs because direct sun light is not necessary to keep the water clean.

Maintaining a Mosquitoe breeding source inside the house without treatment or precautions against such breeding is an offence under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act.

We appeal to all the residents to Co-operate with Corporation of Madras and provide cover slabs for the Wells/Over Head Tanks properly to prevent breeding of mosquitoes and for eradicating Malaria.

DISCOVERY OF BUDDHA IMAGE IN RAMESWARAM

The State Department of Archaealogy has located an outstanding Buddha image made of white granite stone at Pungadittidal near the Ariyankundu village in Rameswaram Island. This place is situated about 10 Km. North West of Rameswaram town. This Pungadittidal seems to have been called as Pulliyadicchalai or Pulliyadittidal during 12th Century A.D.

Rameswaram is very famous from the Puranic age as this is the place where Lord Rama is said to have worshipped Siva in his anthropomorphic form. The name of this place itself indicates this incident. The area including Rameswaram was known either Sethu Nadu or Marawar Nadu or Sethupathi Simai in recent past.

The Buddha image which has been found just on the shore is an exquisite piece and confirms the existence of the Buddhistic vestiges in the part of Tamil Nadu. It is understood that Parakramababu, the King of Ceylon had renovated a Buddhist Vihara at this place by bringing the required material from Tiriconamalai while he came on expedition to Pandinadu. He was ruling during 12th Century A.D. Hence, it is clear that a Buddhist Vihara was in existence at this place from 12th Century onwards.

It is confirmed further by the occurence of number of Caledon wares that are believed to have been brought by the merchants of East Asian countries. These shards are assignable to 12th, 13th Centuries A.D. The availability of these shards suggests that this Buddhistic Vihara and temple must have attracted the pilgrims even from the Far Eastern Countries.

Though the image is broken, the bust itself reveals the artistic beauty and the maturity of the craftsman. The Drapery and the Dhyanapose attest that this is an image of Buddha. It is assignable to circa 9th-10th Century A.D.

This place has also yielded an urn burial and some pieces of conical jars.

MEDICINAL PLANTS THROUGH AGES

M.N. Pushpa,
Asst. Curator,
Government Museum, Madras.

Plants we can say, serve as a 'Natural Pharmacy'. With the minerals and salts they have, they offer people resistence to disease, strength to tissues. Some improve the blood circulation and others cure rheumatism, fever, while others prevent the passege of harmful bacteria. In curing viral disease the lowerform of plantlife such as Penicillin is used.

Many medicinal plants are known to have been used in China as far back as 4000-5000 B.C. Hippocrates called the 'Father of Medicine' (5th Century B.C.) recommended 300 to 400 medicinal plants. 'De Materia Medica; of 'Dioscorides' in the first Century A.D. listed more than 500 medicinal plants.

For many centuries native people in the Andes mountain of South America have chewed the leaves of a small native tree or shrub called coca, to alleviate pangs of fatigue and hunger. The extracted alkaloid was formerly used as a local anesthetic.

One of the most controversial Drug plant today is the Hemp plant, Cannabis Sativa which is a dioecious annual. The seeds yield marijuana and hashish. Of Asiatic origin hemp was cultivated and used in China possibly as far back as 3,000 B.C. The active hallucinogenic ingredient is synthesised in special gland cells on the leaves and especially on bracts of female infloresence. The resin itself constitutes hashish and is relatively potent.

In 1963, when archaeologists opened the grave of a Neanderthal man who had been buried in a cave near Shanidar, they

VINCA ROSEA

DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURES

HORSE — SHOE PLANT RESEMBLING MOON

found that the body has been buried, among flowers and scholars were surprised to see such early manifestations of people's aesthetic sense. More than ten years later, analysis of the pollen of these flowers showed that almost all the plant species were of medicinal value. It is astonishing to note that primitive people who were moving about as nomads had a considerable knowledge of plant medicine. The plants found in the Shanidar grave were diuretics, emetics, astringents, stimulant and pain relievers.

Later with the development of religion, Gods credited with healing power had strong association with the vegetable kingdom. The Cult of Aesculapius the Greek God of healing was symbolised by the image of a serpent, which is supposed to have the power of discovering healing plants.

As time passed by the symptoms of human disease became linked with the outward forms of plants in the 'Doctrine of Signatures'. The belief gained ground that in creating the plants, God had marked on each one a clue to its medicinal properties. Mandrake (Mandragora officinarum) was one such plants, whose human body like appearance led to the superstition that it was useful in the treatment of human disease. Thus the Pomegranate whose juice resembled blood was good for blood disease, the Wood sorrel whose shape was like a heart would relieve heart trouble, and the Hepatica whose colour and form, similar to human liver cured all liver ailments.

As late as the 17th Century the English herbalist William Turner said 'God hath imprinted upon the plants, herbs and flowers, the very signature of their vertues'.

John Ray, one of the pioneers of modern scientific Botany said that wherever a disease was endemic, there could be found a cure for it among the native plants. No part of the body was without its corresponding herb. The long necks of the Canterberry bells was thus used to treat the throat disease. The maiden hair fern made the plant an ideal antidote to baldness. According to William Cole, Wall-nuts have the perfect signature of the head. The outer husk represent the pericranium. The inner woody shell has the signature of skull and the kernel has the figure of the brain. The Spathe and Spadix of the cuckoo-pint were said to represent a baby in its cradle. Hence this plant was kept beside their infants for protection.

This theory had its own defects because not only plants that resembled body parts supposed to work cures, but also those which looked like the causes of distress also claimed to cure. For example, poison taken from the snake is given as an antidote to snake-bite.

The doctrine of signature is, we can rather say is only a backwater in the history of Medicine, which left behind some curious testiments to find meaning and system in their environment.

'Death' according to Baçon is the cure of all diseases. Rauwolfia Serpentiana has been given the status of panacea. Since it seems to be an antidote against all known poison.

In England plants that flower on St.John's Day i.e. on June 24th supposed to have unlimited healing, because of the powers derived from the saint himself. In Assyria the mandrake plant was used to cure baldness, to induce sleep and to get relieved from pain. This plant was supposed to be in demand well beyond the middle ages.

The desire to study plants was born from the study of their medicinal powers. Here the herbalists listed out all the characteristics of plants. The written record of Greeks and Romans which has been preserved in monasteries helped the tradition of herbalists. Hippocrates a Greek born in 460 B.C. has mentioned about hundreds of plants with their medicinal properties. Aristotle and his follower Theophrastus extended the knowledge of the variety, structure and uses of plants. Dioscorides, a physician of Cilicia who lived in the first century A.D. collected and expanded his predecessors findings. After the break up of the old Roman Empire, the pivot of civilization moved East. A succession of Arab physicians like Razis and Avicenna fostered the works of the Greeks. In the West also the great Medical Schools of the Middle Ages owed their distinction to Arabs.

Medicines are classified on the basis of the morphology of the parts of plants which gives the medicine. Thus Drugs are obtained from various parts of plants. Mention here, is made of some plants along with the parts which yield the Drug.

1. **Root:** Aconition napellus which gives Aconite, from its tuberous root cures rheumatism and relieves pain. Rauwolfia serpentiana which is a native of India constitute the rauwolfia drug.

2. **Stem:** Ephedrine, alkaloid is extracted from this plant Ephedra of the Gnetaceae. It is used to cure nasal, bronchial congestion and asthma.

3. **Bark:** Quinine is obtained from the various species of Chincona, bark. It is used as an antimalarial Drug.

4. **Leaves:** Tender leaves of Bambusa arundinaceae (Bamboo) is used along with black pepper and common salt to check diarrhoea in Cattle. Digitals is obtained from the dried leaves of foxglove (Digitalis purpurea). Digitalin is a good stimulant of heart and also used as diuretics. Eucalyptus oil obtained from the leaves is used in the treatment of cold, Malaria, throat infection etc.

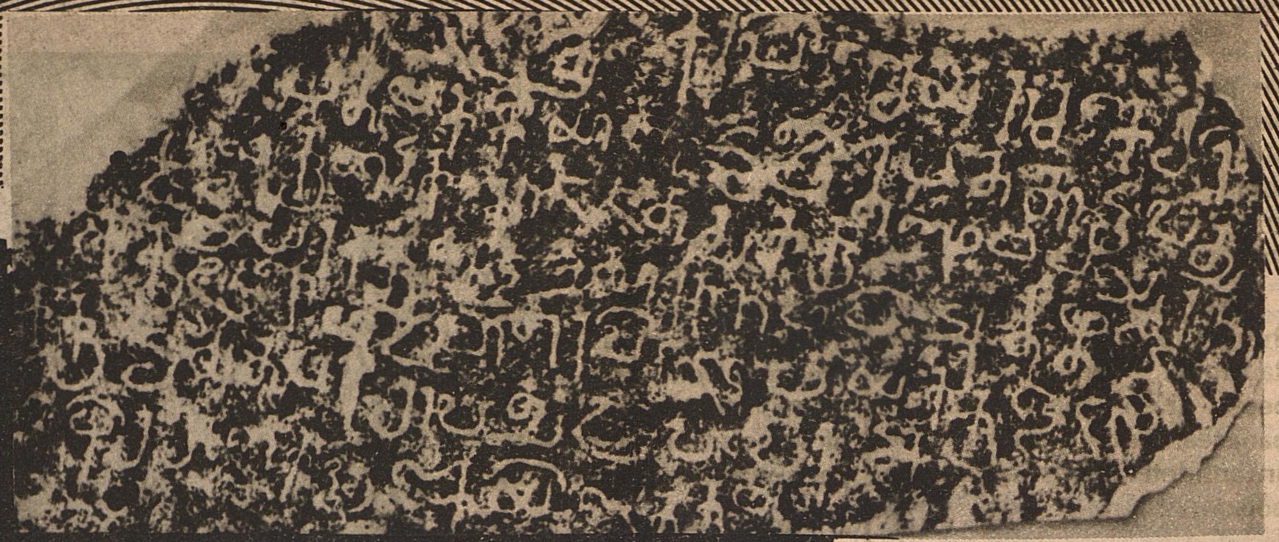
5. **Fruits:** Kadukkay fruit is finely powdered and used as dentrifice. Ergot is obtained from the fruiting body of claviceps purpurea, a fungus.

6. **Seeds:** Seeds of Terminalia chebula (Kadukkay) are used in curing fever, cough, uninary disease, boils and pimples. Seeds of Veronia anthelmintica (Kattu seeragam) are considered to be a remedy for leucoderma and to remove worms from the intestine.

Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) was the originator of homeopathy.

Mention has got to be made about vinca vosea from which vincristine a chemical compound is extracted and used as anti-cancer medicine. Its potential in Cancer-curing was discovered and has risen to paramount importance in combating various forms of malignant tumor.

Plants are still indispensable to the business of healing. And some of the greatest hopes for the future of medicine rest on the success with plants are already coping with meladies resulting from modern lifestyles.



10th CENTURY INSCRIPTION DISCOVERED

The Department of Archaeology has discovered an interesting inscription of Aditya Chola datable to 9th century A.D. from Marakkonam in Arani Taluk of Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District. This inscription is significant on three points. The first point is that this is the third inscription of Aditya Chola available in Tondaimandalam, being the first inscription of his was reported from Thirukkazhukundram, and the second one from Thakkolam. The second point of interest is that it begins with 'Kovisaiya Rajakesari'. The third important point is the name of endowment i.e. "Uva-er" made to one Nambi Arumurai of Marakunrathur of Kuzhaippalur Nadu which was a subdivision of Palkundrakottam.

This inscription is engraved on a rock which is found in the land of Thiru Kannappa Mudaliar of this village Marakkonam. It is written in the 26th regnal year of Rajakesari i.e. in 897 A.D., in Tamil character. The name of this village Marakkonam seems to be the corrupted form of Marakunrathur which is found mentioned in this inscription.

The beginning of this inscription "Sri Ko Visaya Raja Kesari" suggests clearly the change over of the sovereignity from Pallava dynasty to Chola dynasty. "Ko Visaya" as the beginning word is usually found as a prefix only to Pallava kings. But in this inscription this prefix "Ko Visaya" has been added to 'Rajakesari' who was a Chola King. Hence in this respect this inscription assumes more importance.

Aditya Chola the son of Vijayalaya was the conquerer over the last Pallava ruler Aparajita. He is found mentioned as 'Rajakesari' and the son of Vijayalaya in Anbil plates of Sundara Chola. The stone inscriptions of Thirukkazhukundram and Takkolam mention Rajakesari without any prefix. This Rajakesari has also been identified as of Aditya I. Hence Marakkonam inscription is also to be taken of Aditya I. Aditya had epithets such as 'Thondainadu Pavia Cholan' and 'Kothanda Raman'. It is understood that he was a great conquerer and extended his territory upto Thondaimandalam and was on friendly terms with the Chera King Sthanuravi and the Western Kind Pranthvipathi II. He is also said to have built large temples to Siva on both banks of the river Kaveri. He ruled from 871 A.D. to 907 A.D.

This Marakkonam epigraph is the only inscription where a Chola King is referred to with the prefix of "Ko Visaiya". 'Uva-er', the term denoting endowment is not easily understandable. It may possibly be interpreted as a right granted to cultivate in a particular land.

On an information given by Thiru Venkatesan a school teacher of Kaveripakkam, Thiru. Natana Kasinathan, Director, had deputed Thiru. Ramamurthy, Epigraphist of this office to copy and decipher this inscription.

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